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EDUC 240

Concluding Assignment

What do we mean by the "21st century classroom?" There are a variety of answers to this question, but few get at the transformation in teaching and learning that can be brought about by the shifts that are happening in our world today.

What is the 21st Century Classroom? There are a number of possible answers when responding to this question. However, after reading the text book and and completing the majority of this course, I feel as though there are certain aspects that must be mentioned when speaking about the 21st Century Classroom. One of the most obvious components of what makes up the 21st century classroom is technology. In addition to technology, I believe that change, style, and motivation are all important when discussing this topic.

Technology is probably the biggest factor in what makes the "21st century classroom" so much different from education in the past. Over the years, technology has changed and advanced in a number of ways. Instead of using the classic overhead projector or the chalk board to teach students, things such as laptops, smart boards, iPods, iPads, blogging, youtube, etc. are being used to convey information to students. Students today learn better though technology because it is what they are used to and familiar with. Most students have these technologies at home and using them has become second nature to them. So, why not bring them into the classroom and use them as educational tools? A lot of people feel as if technology is hindering education, however, I believe that if you learn how to use it properly and are willing to try new things, that many teachers would find technology quite useful in their

classrooms. When our students leave school and enter the real world, the majority of jobs are going to require their employees to be technologically advanced.

This brings me to the aspect of change and style. Many teachers have been stuck in their old ways of teaching. Today's learners do not learn by sitting at their desks and copying notes and memorizing facts. Instead, they need to be interactive and completing hands on activities. Teachers of the 21st century classroom need to embrace this change and accept the fact that they may have to change their teaching style to fit their students needs. Effective teachers today are not using worksheets and requiring their students to memorize facts, instead, they are engaging their students in meaningful activities. They find effective ways to motivate their students. In order to be effective educators, we need to change our attitudes about teaching and learning. We need to be willing to become lifelong learners, after all, that's what we want our students to be, right? We need to lead by example.

How do we apply technology tools in ways so that we can more easily achieve meaningful teaching and learning in the 21st century? Our focus on technology in education rarely gets beyond the dimension of technical skill. Education professionals must have additional skills to be able to evaluate emerging and ever-evolving technology tools and determine how they will meet the needs of the 21st century learner.

The main focus of many educators today is to make educational meaningful. We want our students to be able to relate what we are teaching them to real world experiences. One way that educators can do this is by implementing technology into their lessons every day. Students see and use technology almost everywhere. Almost all of them have cell phones, iPods, computers, game boys, etc. that they use for hours each and every day. What many teachers don't realize, I think, is that you can use these technological instruments in the classroom to create a meaningful learning experience. One simple way to incorporate

technology is by using computers; almost all classrooms have computers these days. There are so many opportunities for students to engage in meaningful and educational experiences on the computer. There are things like games and videos that kids can watch, and there are also tools that you can use to blog and create websites so that students can interact and socialize on a network. In addition to the computer, teachers can use interactive materials such as smart boards when teaching their lessons. I think we will find that more and more students will begin understanding and enjoying lessons when we engage them and make things interactive. Also, because the students today are so used to having technology, using it in the classroom will help them make those real world connections that we are looking for. Therefore, if teachers take the time to learn how to use such technologies as the ones mentioned, I think they will see tremendous differences in their student's performances.

Not only can technology benefit the students in the classroom, but it can also become very beneficial for teachers as well. Teachers can use technology to keep track of grades and it can help them assess their students. As long as the teachers keep up with the changing times and continue to learn how to use the new technologies that are becoming available to them; I think that the students will continue to learn and benefit as well.